

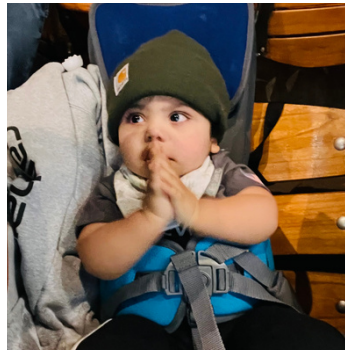


Center for Inclusive Design and Engineering (CIDE)

COLLEGE OF ENGINEERING, DESIGN AND COMPUTING

UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO DENVER | ANSCHUTZ MEDICAL CAMPUS

Colorado Assistive Technology Program 2023 Annual Report



At the Center for Inclusive Design and Engineering (CIDE), our goal is to improve access to assistive technology (AT) in education, employment, community living, information technology and telecommunications. We offer device loans, provide opportunities for technology reuse, maintain resources for finding and funding AT, educate, provide technical assistance, and raise public awareness.

Our work is guided by the AT Coalition, an advisory council made up primarily of individuals with disabilities who use AT or family members or guardians of these individuals. We are supported by statewide coordination and collaboration with other agencies and organizations including but not limited to the Colorado Department of Education, Early Intervention Colorado, Center of Independent Living, state Workforce Investment Agency, and the Colorado Department of Vocational Rehabilitation.

Our Work and Focus

The Center for Inclusive Design and Engineering (CIDE) envisions a world where all persons with disabilities are fully engaged in life, without barriers and without boundaries.

Learn more about our programs:

- Email: CIDE@ucdenver.edu
- Web: ucdenver.edu/centers/cide
- LinkedIn: [linkedin.com/company/65373449](https://www.linkedin.com/company/65373449)



Borrowing an augmentative and alternative communication (AAC) device from the statewide loan bank, allowed this young girl to communicate with her family as she looked at her books.

The vocabulary builder feature made it easy to focus on learning the motor plan for specific words to build her vocabulary.

After a successful trial, funding paperwork has been approved by Medicaid, and this little communicator will be receiving her own purple ViaPro soon!

Device Loans

CIDE, in partnership with the Colorado Department of Education's SWAAAC project, maintains an inventory of AT equipment worth \$1,347,097.67. From simple, low-tech devices to complex technology, equipment from this inventory is available for short term loan for children ages 3-21 in public schools. Educators and therapists access these loans to inform assessment recommendations, district purchasing decisions, and to provide professional development and training. Early Intervention Colorado, in the Department of Early Childhood also contributes funding to the AT loan library to support the development of Individual Family Service Plans and the application of AT for children birth – 3 years of age.

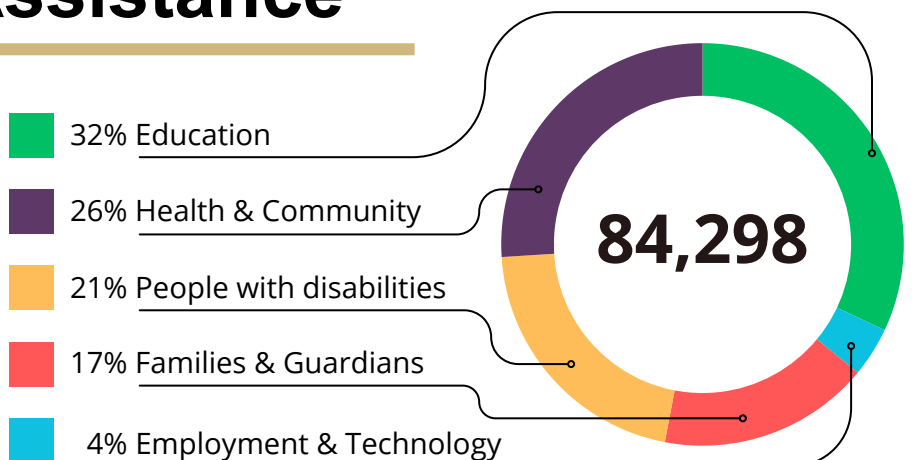
In the 2022-23 school year, 637 devices were checked out from the loan library. After borrowing a device, 55% of borrowers changed their purchase plans. This saved individuals and agencies \$648,758.00.

640K
COST SAVINGS

CIDE also provides AT loans to adults via the Colorado AT Network. This project supports people with disabilities as they explore assistive technologies which allow them to make informed decisions regarding the devices and tools they will use at school, work and in the community.

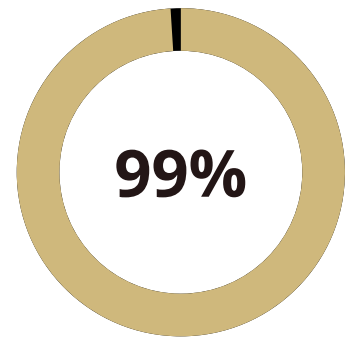
Information & Assistance

We love to connect people with the resources they need. In the 2023 fiscal year, 84,298 individuals representing various groups & industries received information and assistance from CIDE staff about AT devices, services, and funding.



Device Demonstrations

AT professionals at CIDE support individuals with disabilities and their families statewide, offering basic information, resources, and demonstrations of AT devices. This initiative allows people to explore their options, compare AT types, and make informed decisions about what they need. This saves time and money and helps improve future outcomes.



In fiscal year 2023 CIDE staff completed 293 device demonstrations. Ninety-nine percent of these individuals were either highly satisfied or satisfied with their experience. Sixty-seven percent decided that the AT device or service would meet their needs. The most common devices demonstrated were in the category of mobility, seating, and positioning.

Coordination & Collaboration

For people living on life support technologies, loss of power during an emergency can have devastating consequences. The Colorado Assistive Technology Program received \$1.4 million from the Colorado Department of Health Care Policy and Financing (HCPF), the state Medicaid office. The funding supports emergency battery backup power systems, emergency go kits, and trainings on various aspects of emergency preparedness. The Surviving in Place (SIP) project is truly collaborative. HCPF oversaw provider and member marketing, created tracking spreadsheets, and handled initial approvals. CIDE conducted research and testing on battery systems, developed applications, gave final approvals, determined battery sizes, distributed acceptance letters and setup instructions, and created training content.

Work on this project to date has included:

- Distribution of 1,011 battery backup systems
- Distribution of 473 emergency go kits
- Delivery of 4 different trainings provided face-to-face, virtually and just-in-time online trainings.

Bruce, one of the recipients of the SIP battery backup systems, uses multiple medical devices and is totally dependent on a ventilator. "In the past, we have had several plans in place to address a loss of electricity. Most of the plans involve taking him to the nearest hospital. Just recently, we lost power for a few hours. In the past, we would have been packing to leave. Now we were able to relax knowing that we had many hours of backup power."



AT Device Reuse

The CIDE AT Device Reuse program connects individuals who no longer use or need their equipment to those who do. This program increases the lifespan of a device; thus, saving money and reducing waste. Device reuse in Colorado falls under two categories – device exchange and open-ended loans.

Device exchange occurs through the CIDE AT Exchange, an online tool and resource that assists individuals, and organizations, in obtaining used AT devices or equipment for little or no cost. This service allows users to search posted items available within Colorado.

Open-ended loans begin at the CIDE loan library. Devices that are no longer included in the short-term loan library are delivered to AT specialists working with children receiving early intervention services or students in public education in Colorado. These children can use the devices for as long as they are needed. In 2023 a total of 35 valued at \$61,153 were reutilized - 100% of which were open-ended loans. Participants reported high levels of satisfaction, attributing their ability to afford the AT solely to this statewide program.

What is AT?

Assistive Technology (AT) is any item, piece of equipment, or system, whether acquired commercially, modified, or customized, that is commonly used to increase, maintain, or improve functional capabilities for individuals with disabilities.

Statewide Training Impacts

A total of 3,845 participants attended CIDE hosted trainings in fiscal year 2023, including live and web-based formats.

Topics for these trainings included:

- Information about specific AT devices and how they work
- Acquisition and funding information for assistive technology
- Emergency preparedness for people with disabilities
- Digital and computing skills for people with disabilities
- Creation and remediation of digital documents such as PDFs
- Professional development for AT and accessibility professionals

This program is made possible by funding from the Assistive Technology Act of 2004 P.L. 108-364; Federal Grant number: 2401COSGAT; Rehabilitation Services Administration, Administration for Community Living, Department of Health & Human Services.